

## The State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program For Adults



- Do you need adult care home or assisted living care but want to remain living at home?
- Do you now live in an adult care home, such as an assisted living, rest home or a supervised living group home and want to return home but need help paying for care?

Read further to see if you may be eligible for the Special Assistance In-Home Program.

Most NC counties participate in this program. To find out if your county is participating call your local department of social services or visit  
[www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/adultsvcs/SA\\_InHome\\_Counties.htm](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/adultsvcs/SA_InHome_Counties.htm)

### Can I get help paying my expenses at home?

For eligible older adults or adults with disabilities, the State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program (SA/IH) can help with living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing and other daily necessities. Assistance checks are sent monthly to eligible individuals living at home.

### Am I eligible?

Individuals with low income are potentially eligible if they are age 65 or older, or if they are under age 65 and at least age 18, and are disabled according

to Social Security disability standards; and,

All applicants must:

- Need adult care home level of care as verified by a doctor but desire to continue living at home;
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien;
- Have Medicaid eligibility established prior to SA/IH approval;
- Meet income and asset eligibility requirements;
- Be a resident of NC, living in a county providing SA/IH; and
- Meet all other Special Assistance eligibility requirements.

## How do I qualify for Medicaid?

Eligibility for Medicaid for the Special Assistance In-Home Program is not automatic. Applicants and recipients for this Program must be determined eligible for Medicaid as categorically needy prior to approval of Special Assistance In-Home Program benefits. Medicaid eligibility is based on the federal poverty guidelines which are subject to change.

## What is counted as income and assets?

Examples of countable income include wages, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits and other retirement or unearned income. Your DSS caseworker can explain how income is budgeted for Special Assistance In-Home eligibility and monthly payment.

Examples of assets that are counted are property, cash, savings, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, annuities, some IRAs, and the cash value of life insurance policies. Some assets that are not counted are a home used as a primary residence, personal belongings, irrevocable burial plans, some burial plots and burial insurance. One vehicle is excluded as a resource if it is the primary mode of transportation. Your DSS caseworker can also explain how assets are verified and counted in the Special Assistance In-Home eligibility process.

## How much will my Special Assistance check be?

The maximum check amount a Special Assistance In-Home recipient can receive varies from one individual to another. An assessment and service plan, completed with an Adult Services case manager determines what percentage of the maximum Special Assistance In-Home payment an individual is eligible to receive. The Special Assistance In-Home payment cannot be more than 75% of what an individual would receive if he/she were in an adult care home. The NC General Assembly sets the maximum rate for adult care home payments for individuals receiving Special Assistance.

## How and where can I apply?

Apply for the Special Assistance In-Home Program at your county department of social services. You may send someone to apply for you. When you apply, please provide the following items if you have them. You will be given an opportunity to provide necessary information if you do not have it when you apply.

- Income information such as recent pay stubs, Social Security, SSI, or Veteran's Administration (VA) award letters;
- Savings and checking account information such as passbooks, checkbooks, bank statements, etc;
- Information on assets such as property, stocks, bonds, IRAs, annuities, and trust funds owned by you and/or your spouse;
- Social Security card or other verification of Social Security number;
- Proof of age (birth certificate or other); and
- Insurance information
- State-issued proof of identity

From the date of application, the eligibility determination process can take up to 45 days for applicants age 65 or older and up to 60 days for applicants 18 and older and under 65.

## County Department of Social Services

[COUNTY DSS NAME HERE]

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